

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 AEC-11 ACDA-19 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 H-02 RSR-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0553

SECDEF

INFO USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 2992

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81

TAGS: NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: MILITARY COMMITTEE ROLE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION

REF: USNATO 2772

1. MEZIES (CANADA) AT LUNCH JUNE 19 TOLD OTHER PERMREPS THAT GOC HAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH LETTER SYG PROPOSES TO SEND TO MC CHAIRMAN (GENERAL STEINHOFF) ASKING CHAIRMAN TO DEFINE MC'S PROPER ROLE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS. MENZIES COMMENTED THAT LANGUAGE IN LETTER WAS SO BROAD THAT IT COULD ENABLE MC TO CREATE CONSULTATIVE ROLE FOR ITSELF WHICH IT DOES NOT PROPERLY POSSESS. HE SUGGESTED THAT LUNS ADVISE STEINHOFF ORALLY OF NEED TO ADDRESS QUESTION IN MODEST TERMS AND TO LET LATTER KNOW THAT SOME NATIONAL CAPITALS STRONGLY PREFER TO RECEIVE CONSOLIDATED POLITICAL- MILITARY POSITION FROM NATO HEADQUARTERS IN TIME OF CRISIS WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE EMPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. TO ILLUSTRATE, MENZIES RECALLED THAT DURING LAST WINTEX IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS OF A DPC/ NAC MEETING, GENERAL STEINHOFF HAD CALLED MC MEETING. AS A RESULT,

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OTTAWA RECEIVED TWO QUITE DIFFERENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

A) A CONSOLIDATED POLITICAL RECOMMENDATION TO WHICH MENZIES HAD AGREED IN DPC/ NAC; AND B) A CONSOLIDATED MILITARY RECOMMENDATION TO WHICH CANADIAN MEMBER OF MC HAD AGREED. CANADIAN

PRIME MINISTER DID NOT LIKE BEING CONFRONTED WITH TWO DIFFERENT
AND SUPPOSEDLY CONSOLIDATED NATO POSITIONS.

3. MENZIES RECEIVED NO SUPPORT. CHORAFAS (GREECE) DISAGREED
AND URGED IMPORTANCE OF GIVING FULL ATTENTION TO MILITARY
VIEWS DURING EVERY PHASE OF NUCLEAR CONSULTATIONS. BELGIAN
AND UK PERMREPS ALSO URGED THAT SYG'S LETTER BE ALLOWED TO
GO FORWARD TO GENERAL STEINHOFF. THEY ARGUED THAT POLITICAL
AUTHORITIES IN CAPITALS SHOULD HAVE FULL BENEFIT OF PROFESSIONAL
MILITARY VIEWS BEFORE ULITMATE POLITICAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN.

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